

Church News

Buena Vista, Va.

It was my happy privilege on Saturday night and Sunday, August 12, and 13, to preach for the brethren at Barbour's Creek in Craig Co. On Saturday night we had a good congregation and splendid attention. Sunday we were impressed with the importance of putting in a full day for the Lord, so we tried by his help to preach three times on Sunday. At the close of the last service we ask any who wanted to be Christians to stand up, and ten or twelve immediately stood up. To God be all the praise for any good impressions that may have been made.

J. W. PURSLEY.

Gleanings from the Wayside

Thru the mercies of a kind Providence we are permitted once more to come with a small hand full of gleanings for which we are very thankful. The last two weeks has been moving time with us, and those that have had the experience know just how weary and worn wife and I are. It is a kind of experiment for us, having moved only three times in thirty-two years. We only moved four blocks from our old home, and if we do not like it we will move back. Last Sunday was our harvest meeting at College Corner, and was attended by a large, very large audience. Interest good. Professor Snyder and choir from the Farmer's Institute did the singing. The songs were very appropriate for the occasion, such as, "This is Our Harvest Home," "The Song of the Reapers," "The Lord's Prayer," (a chant) and "Good-bye." Miss Lina Harris presided at the organ. Brother Ellis Brubaker of the German Baptist, gave us a good talk in the afternoon. How brotherly for us to work together. May it continue until the walls of division may be obliterated. The young people filled the remainder of time in the afternoon. A great meeting. \$3 35 was collected for home mission work. There were in attendance, some from Loree, Peru, Roann, Wabash, Treaty, Lafantain Converse, and almost the entire Poplar Grove congregation. "How pleasant for Brethren to dwell together in unity." Before this is in print our National Conference will have convened. May we all go with a spirit of encouragement in trying to build each other up, that good may come to the entire brotherhood. May there be such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as was never witnessed at any previous conference. May God's blessing rest upon Brother Gnagey and the dear EVANGELIST. While it is very good, let us help to make it better. We are all too ready to criticise. Let us have more patience and "all things will work together for good to those that love the Lord." A little more forbearance, a little more forgiveness, a little more long suffering, a little more holding up each other's hands at a throne of heavenly grace, in fact a little more religion of the good old kind will help us on our way. May the infinite wisdom of God, the superlative power of his

ruling be that we can all say, "Not my will, but thine, O Lord be done."

WM. W. SUMMERS.

North Manchester, Ind.

Maple Grove, Ind.

The days come and go, and the Brethren church at Maple Grove still exists. We meet every Sunday at 9:30 A. M., for Sunday school. Altho the lessons seem more difficult this quarter than they were last, yet great interest is being manifested. Our Young People's society meets every Sunday at 2:30 P. M. Altho the attendance is often very small, yet we believe that God blesses the work that is done, for we always feel that a great benefit is derived from these meetings. We have prayer meeting every Tuesday evening. The interest shown by some of the members seems to be on the wane, but a few are still standing at the post of duty and hope, by God's help, to keep on fighting till the victory is won. Notwithstanding the small attendance we are not discouraged for we feel that "one with God is majority." Preaching services are conducted every third Sunday in the month by brother L. W. Ditch. We believe that he is trying to do what he can for the Master and his kingdom here on earth. On Sunday, Aug. 13, we had the pleasure of driving to Oakville, and meeting the brethren and sisters at a harvest meeting in the grove south of the city. We wish to thank the members for the hospitality shown us during our short visit, and we hope that we may again have the pleasure of meeting them in the near future. May we all trust in the love of Jesus.

DEFFA HEDRICK.

THE PREACHER IN POLITICS

L. A. HAZLETT

Two questions present themselves in the opening of this theme. First, are we agreed as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, that we have a mission to perform in the realm of politics. The second question is like unto the first: are the members of the various denominations of the church of Jesus Christ agreed that the preacher has a work to do in politics. From observation we are made to answer both these questions *yes* and *no*. From the attitude of both ministry and laity toward this theme, some have been answering, *yes*, the preacher has a work to do in politics. On the other hand an equal number, yea dare I say a far greater number add, "Leave politics to the politicians, you have no business dabbling in it." I deem it not necessary to bring forth an array of argument, logically arranged, to show this association whether or not the preacher has any business in politics. It may not be, however, inappropriate to define to what politics here refers and to note briefly the sphere of the preacher. Politics is the art or science of government. No reference to party machinery. Not a politician in the common usage of the term. Politics, that field of labor that calls every true, loyal

Christian to exercise all his power in the *selection* and *election* of good men to office that would result in giving the best government, the greatest liberty and rights, both civil and religious, to mankind. In regard to the preacher's mission, length and breadth must we draw a circle and place him therein? Yes, if the circle be drawn large enough; I am not able to say how large it should be. The Master was sent to seek and to save that which was lost, I believe in every walk of life. Our mission is identical—to follow His steps. He came to uplift mankind. "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." He preached against sin, wherever found, the one and only enemy of the human family. Paul's admonition to Timothy is as applicable to us now as then. "Preach the word." This will lead to reproof and rebuke in the political arena. In order to do this the preacher must be a man of character and dauntless courage. As to ideal character in a minister, Bishop Ken says: "Give me the priest whose graces shall possess of an ambassador the just address; a father's tenderness, a shepherd's care, a leader's courage which the cross can bear, a ruler's awe, a watchman's wakeful eye, a fisher's patience, and a laborer's toil, a guide's dexterity to disembroil, a prophet's inspiration from above, a teacher's knowledge and a Savior's love." Having then seen the wide field of the preacher and agreed that he has the privilege, the opportunity, the power, is he not duty bound to exercise this right to the best of his ability in a God-fearing way? The question is asked, What evil or evils exist in our government, that is a menace to our people and their liberties and whose influence tends to counteract the progress and growth of the church and the extension of Christ's kingdom here on earth.

I believe you will agree with me, that the Christians of this land as well as the moral man, would say that the greatest foe to good government, the home, the school and the church is none other than the traffic in alcoholic liquors. I need not bring before you facts and figures from various sources at length; you are acquainted with these; neither need I attempt to show you the grossness of this evil. This evil is living pictures, seen in nearly every hamlet and city of our fair country. Imagine for a moment a block of buildings extending from Chicago to N. Y. City in solid phalanx. Such would the saloons furnish, if placed side by side. Then see the teeming thousand, sons and daughters of America entering these beautiful fronts with all their glittering array and inducements to lure them in these dives. Then glance at the rear end of this same extensive block of buildings. You see not the same fair countenances as on entering, but reeling, drunken, besotted, debauched character to the number of fifty, sixty, dare we say one hundred thousand, going to a literal hell every year in America.

Then pause for a moment and ask yourself the question David asked with that pathetic